

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ENGLISH (Sponsor), LAFAVER, WEBB, WALTON GRAY,
PACE, HIGDON, BURNS, MILLER, BAHR, MCNEIL, HICKS, ENGLER AND HUBBARD (Co-sponsors).

1207H.011

2 **WHEREAS**, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works (MCW), near downtown St. Louis, was
3 contracted by the Manhattan District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in April 1942
4 to determine how to purify tons of uranium and achieved success in only 50 days; and

5 **WHEREAS**, MCW then processed all the uranium used for the world's first self-
6 sustaining nuclear chain reaction in Chicago on December 2, 1942 that marks the birth of the
7 Atomic Age; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, MCW continued processing uranium for nuclear weapons for 15 years at
10 the downtown St. Louis site, and another 10 years at Weldon Springs in St. Charles County, and
11 generated tons of highly dangerous, long-lived radioactive waste; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, the resulting radioactive wastes have been stockpiled, transported, spilled
14 and have blown and eroded onto dozens of St. Louis locations over the subsequent 70 years; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Energy remediated the Weldon Springs
17 site's 1.48 million cubic yards of radioactive waste at a cost of one billion federal tax dollars and
18 also remediated many St. Louis sites; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, in 1998 the Corps of Engineers took over the remediation of the St. Louis
21 sites as part of the Formerly Utilized (Manhattan Project/Atomic Energy Commission) Sites
22 Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP); and

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24 **WHEREAS**, under Corps leadership more than one million cubic yards of the MCW
25 radioactive wastes have been excavated and transported to licensed radioactive waste disposal
26 sites in Utah and Idaho at a cost of more than one billion federal tax dollars and the Corps
27 expects to continue the St. Louis City and County remediation projects for an estimated four
28 additional years; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, only one St. Louis site contaminated with MCW radioactive wastes is
31 under the jurisdiction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), namely the
32 West Lake Landfill, an EPA-designated Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, the West Lake Landfill is not a location designed to store radioactive
35 wastes; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the West Lake Landfill site, located in the Missouri River flood plain and
38 along the New Madrid earthquake fault, contains an estimated 143,000 cubic yards of MCW
39 radioactive wastes that were illegally dumped there in 1973; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, the West Lake Landfill radioactive wastes have already contaminated the
42 soil and are already in contact with the groundwater that flows into the Missouri River about
43 eight miles upstream from the Missouri American Water Company's North Plant in Florissant,
44 the drinking water resource for all of North St. Louis County above Interstate 70; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the West Lake groundwater also flows into the Missouri River upstream
47 from the Missouri-Mississippi River confluence, just above the Chain of Rocks drinking water
48 intake facility for the City of St. Louis; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, the radioactive wastes will continue releasing radioactive liquids, particles
51 and gases for hundreds of thousands of years and beyond; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, exposure to radioactive liquids, particles and gases increase the risk of
54 cancer, other life-threatening diseases, genetic mutations and birth defects; and

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56 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
57 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
58 concurring therein, hereby request the United States Congress to transfer the authority for the
59 remediation of the West Lake Landfill radioactive wastes from the EPA to the Corps of
60 Engineers' FUSRAP project with the urgent, related request that the wastes be excavated from
61 the Missouri River flood plain and be transported to a licensed radioactive waste facility, away
62 from water and away from people.

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
65 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
66 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and
67 each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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